

Why Do We Spray?



We spray to protect the health and welfare of our citizens from mosquito borne diseases. York County has 43,000 acres of water, encompassing woodland pools and marshes coupled with many miles of drainage ditches. Under the proper conditions, mosquito populations can greatly increase. When this occurs, we treat as much standing water as we can with biological insecticide. If mosquito populations continue to rise, spray trucks are dispatched in the evenings when weather permits.

When a serious mosquito infestation is imminent, we arrange to do an aerial spray flight, as pictured above. When possible, we undertake this regional effort cooperatively with the U.S. Air Force. Licensed personnel conduct the aerial sprayings, using only EPA registered insecticides. We strive to use the least toxic pesticides available.

For the convenience of our citizens, we provide spray scheduling information. To find out if your neighborhood is scheduled for mosquito spraying, call our mosquito hotline at 890-3793 anytime.

A Total Approach To Mosquito Control

Did you know that there are about 40,000 mosquitoes for every person in this county? We don't claim to be able to eliminate them all, but York County's integrated mosquito management program greatly reduces mosquito annoyance with minimal environmental impact. This program's cornerstone is a combination of surveillance, source reduction, biological application, judicious chemical treatment and citizen interaction. It is a process, not a reaction.

The emphasis is on source reduction by maintaining many miles of off-road drainage easements. Unfortunately, many are clogged by leaves and other residential trash deposited by citizens. This obstructs the natural flow of water and creates a mosquito breeding situation that may well plague an entire neighborhood. In situations like this, both local and state code allows our work crews to correct the situation at the landowner's expense, if necessary.

Maintaining a high standard of customer care is a top priority. If you have any questions about mosquito control or wish to report a mosquito problem, call weekdays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

York County Mosquito Control
145 Goodwin Neck Road
Yorktown, VA 23692
890-3790
www.yorkcounty.gov/eds



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Mastering the Mosquito



Mosquito Control Begins At Home



A powerful weapon in the ongoing mosquito control effort in York County is the so-called "mosquito fish," which the Mosquito Control Division will deliver free of charge to citizens who have standing water near their homes.

Here in the York County Drainage/Mosquito Control Division, we have a philosophy: You can't stop the rain, but you *can* stop the mosquitoes!

We have a number of methods available to help with mosquito control that have been proven to work well. But our biggest message to you, our citizens, is: **Mosquito control begins at home!**

You can greatly decrease the mosquito annoyance in and around your home by eliminating breeding sites where mosquito larvae thrive. All mosquitoes need standing water in which to reproduce. As little as a half-inch of water in a can or container can produce dozens of mosquitoes.

Here are a few simple things you can do around your home that will help:

- Eliminate cans, bottles, plastic containers and old tires from your yard.
- Change the water in birdbaths and

potted plant trays at least once a week.

- Turn over wading pools, small boats, wheelbarrows, buckets, toys and wagons.
- Shake out the tarps that cover grills, firewood, boats, swimming pools and yard equipment at least once a week.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling containers closed.

• Drain or treat unused swimming pools.
To protect yourself when you are outside:

- Wear repellent.
- Wear light-colored clothing.
- Keep moving.
- Wear long pants and long sleeves.
- Avoid swampy areas.
- Stock water gardens and backyard ponds with "mosquito fish."
- Finally, call York County Mosquito Control at **890-3790** if you have a problem.

Why Mosquitoes Bite Us—And Why We Shouldn't Let Them

In their quest for blood, mosquitoes may bite birds, snakes and mammals, including people. Some mosquitoes have actually become domesticated, living exclusively in and around human habitations.

A day or so after emerging as an adult, the female mosquito flies off searching for a blood meal. She homes in on body warmth, odor, moisture and the carbon dioxide we exhale. When she bites, the female injects a bit of saliva that slows coagulation so blood flows freely. It's your

body's reaction that causes the welt and itch later on.

Malaria and yellow fever once scourged this area. Fortunately, due to advances in medicine and sanitation, these dread diseases are no longer found here. Unfortunately, eastern equine encephalitis and West Nile virus are still seen and can be extremely dangerous to the young and elderly. Some people also are very allergic to mosquito bites.

Mosquitoes also transmit heart worms, which can be fatal to dogs and cats.

